GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4090
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006
EXPLORATION IN MAHANADI BASIN
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding oil exploration work in the Mahanadi basin in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government has decided to award more areas to the private parties for oil exploration work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) In the Mahanadi Basin 13 exploration blocks are being operated by ONGC,OIL and Private/Joint Venture companies. Exploration Companies have carried out 16,410 Kilometers of 2D seismic survey, 10,444 Square Kilometers of 3D seismic survey and drilled 7 exploratory wells in this area.

Six gas discoveries have been made by Reliance Industries Limited in the shallow water block NEC-OSN-97/2.

(b) & (c) Government of India has offered six block in Mahanadi Basin (offshore areas) in the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) VI round through International Competitive Bidding on 23rd February, 2006. The details of the blocks are as under:

Name of the blocks	Area (Sq.KM)
MN-DWN-2004/1	9885
MN-DWN-2004/2	11813
MN-DWN-2004/3	11316
MN-DWN-2004/4	8822
MN-DWN-2004/5	10454
NEC-DWN-2004/1	7790
NEC-DWN-2004/2	6706

The bid closing date for these blocks is 15th September, 2006.